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Chicago Meeting of the M. T. N. A.

Things are rapidly getting under way for the Forty-second Annual meeting of the Music Teacher's National Association to be held in Chicago Dec. 29, 30 and 31. Headquarters will be at the La Salle Hotel. A reception to visiting members will be given at the Art Institute by the American Musical Society on the evening of the 29th. Among the tentative plans are special programs by the Chicago Opera Association and by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Frederick Stock, Conductor.

A large local committee has been made up of representatives of the different Chicago musical organizations and their plans are being rapidly worked out. The slogan of this meeting will be "Music and the Educational System of the United States." This is certainly a timely subject and one which should be given the attention of all musicians.

Charles N. Boyd of Pittsburgh is the new chairman of the committee on Organ and Choral Music; Osbourne McConathy of Evanston, Ill. of the committee on Public School Music, and Hollis Dann is a new member of that committee.

The preliminary announcements will be sent out shortly. Inquires concerning the coming meeting may be addressed to P. C. Lutkin, president, Evanston, Ill., or to R. G. McCutchan, secretary, Greencastle, Indiana.

From Our Officers

EFFIE E. HARMON, South Bend, Ind.

The idea of an "Officers' Corner" in the Journal is surely a fine one, for we are all interested in knowing what the other busy person is "doing," or at least "thinking about."

A bit of work I did last year, and am continuing (by request) *this* year is to spend ten or fifteen minutes teaching children's songs in the Mothers' Department of the Progress Club. The mothers learn one new song at each meeting. The songs are the same that the first grade children are learning in the public school and the mothers are enthusiastic over knowing the same songs, and being able to sing them with their *own* children.

Just recently the presidents of two of our ward school Mothers' Clubs asked to have songs presented at their meetings. A capable first grade teacher in each of these districts will present these songs in the same manner that she teaches the children.

PHILIP C. HAYDEN, Keokuk, Iowa.

As I consider the situation in the field of School Music education, I seem to see an undercurrent of contest between two views of how school music education should be directed. On the one hand there is constant demand from a certain circle of music educators for more song singing and more listening lessons with the idea of developing music appreciation. These views have been reiterated and insisted upon by enthusiastic advocates.

On the other hand there are many supervisors who believe the song singing, music appreciation activities have already been carried too far; they believe in a certain amount of work along these lines for cultural and inspirational values but they also believe the study of music reading is just as necessary to the child's happiness and permanent usefulness in the community.

If to hold this view is to be an "old fogey" there are a good many of us who will be placed in that class. Signs are plentiful that the conviction is becoming

quite general that at least half of the time devoted to music should be given to a study of music that is looking toward music reading and a certain independent skill in solving the musical problems of tone and rhythm. How much time should be given to each of these important phases of music study? Is it a fact that a majority of experienced supervisors consider sight reading distasteful to both teachers and pupils? Is it a fact that definite teaching of music reading is being given up by most experienced supervisors? I wonder what is the answer to these questions.

From our Hostess CLARA F. SANFORD, St. Joseph, Mo.

St. Joseph is now experiencing "the enthusiasm of anticipation." Anticipation of the honor that is to be hers April 4th to 8th, 1921. This anticipation affects not only the schools, but is city wide.

From President Beattie will come the formal program and announcements concerning Conference Week. From St. Joseph citizens comes an assurance nearly one hundred thousand strong that ours will be a welcome that is both cordial and genuine.

Ours is the delightful privilege to work for the next six months with one big aim—to make *your* visit in St. Joseph both enjoyable and profitable.

ALICE C. INSKEEP, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

I have been starting orchestral and band work and the teaching of orchestral instruments in the schools, and, it is taking every bit of my energy and time up to date. Probably another week will see me ready to begin on other types of work.

WILL EARHART, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The following notice to the pupils in our elementary schools brought such a large response that I did practically nothing else for three weeks but meet the requests.

By action of the Board of Education, orchestras and classes in instrumental music, such as violin classes or classes in the study of any instrument of the symphonic orchestra, may be organized, and instructors will be provided.

A class may consist of players of different instruments, as in orchestra, or of players of one, two or more instruments.

A class or group must consist of 12 members, with an average attendance of 10 members.

At present this offering is extended to pupils only in the fourth to eighth grades inclusive.

Please have this announcement brought to the attention of all pupils in these grades and report to the office of the Director of Music any groups eligible to instruction under the plan.

Pupils must provide their own instruments. Texts (music) and instruction will be provided by the Board of Education.

CHARLES H. FARNSWORTH, Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York

As for "The Officers' Corner;" all I can send is just a word to say that the prospects are bright for an unusually profitable meeting at St. Joseph. The high cost of travel and the absence of unusual city attractions, will tend to clarify the attendance, and give a quality to the spirit of the meeting that would be difficult to get except under the conditions of the coming meeting. Never before was the necessity for discussion of the new lines of work that are opening up for music supervisors, more important, for the needs and demands of the country are growing faster than the profession can prepare for them. To get out of old ruts, and to include new aims in our ideals, will take all the inspiration that a professional man can get from his comrades. I am looking for unusual values professionally, from the coming meeting.